



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2006

FACT SHEET

MAYOR SANDERS ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced his support for the City of San Diego to continue its efforts to help fight global warming by signing on to the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

WHAT IS THE U.S. MAYORS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT?

The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement is an initiative that was unanimously endorsed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors that urges U.S. cities to follow the principles of the Kyoto Protocol, despite the fact that the United States has not ratified the Protocol.

Participating mayors who sign this agreement are making a commitment to meet or beat Kyoto Protocol targets in their own cities.

WHAT DOES THE AGREEMENT REQUIRE OF THE CITY?

Under the agreement, participating cities commit to take following three actions:

- Strive to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities, through actions that include:
 - increasing energy efficiency and water conservation
 - reducing vehicle miles traveled
 - maintaining healthy urban forests
 - reducing sprawl
 - promoting the use of clean, renewable energy resources
- Urge their state governments to enact policies and programs to meet or beat the greenhouse gas emission reduction target suggested for the United States in the Kyoto

Protocol, namely a 7% reduction from 1990 levels by 2012 (NOTE: The State of California has already accomplished this through recently enacted legislation).

- Urge the U.S. Congress to pass bipartisan greenhouse gas reduction legislation, which would establish a national emission trading system.

“At the City of San Diego, we are continuing our commitment to reduce global warming emissions, the major cause of a changing climate. By signing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, I am investing in the future of San Diego.”

-- Mayor Jerry Sanders

HOW DOES THE CITY ALREADY COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS?

Land Use

The Agreement promotes adopting and enforcing land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities.

- The City’s General Plan and Multiple Species Conservation Plan includes open space conservation and walkable urban communities.

Transportation

The Agreement promotes transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit.

- The City is already working to:
 - increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles
 - reduce the number of vehicles
 - launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages
- The City has also taken the following measures:
 - The Environmental Services Department’s refuse collection fleet is committed to use of alternative fuels including early use of Liquefied Natural Gas and ultra-low-sulfur diesel collection trucks that allowed the City to achieve “early implementer” status under the California Air Resources Board regulations on diesel particulates, saving City taxpayers an additional \$1.3 million out-of-pocket by avoiding placement of traps on existing LNG equipment
 - The department also rerouted the City’s trash collection routes to reduce greenhouse-gas producing fuel emissions by reducing the miles traveled and saved taxpayers approximately \$1,000,000.

Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy

The Agreement seeks to increase the use of clean, alternative energy by advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, recovering landfill methane for energy production, and supporting the use of waste to energy technology.

- The City's tremendous success to produce and use methane-generated power from landfills and sewage treatment plants, and the solar energy investment the City began in 2003 has earned it the title as the #1 Green Power Purchaser for a municipality in the United States.

Sustainable Building Practices

The Agreement promotes sustainable building practices using the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system.

- Since its establishment in 2001, the City of San Diego's energy program saves 24 million kWh and \$3 million annually. New construction or retrofits for the City of San Diego that are 10,000 sq ft or more need to meet LEED silver standards. The City's Sustainable Building Policy (900-14) allows an expedited review time for the private sector who presents building projects meeting LEED silver criteria.
- Clean-energy solar panels are fitted to 10 City buildings that produce almost 516,000 kilowatts hours of electricity annually. The photovoltaics save taxpayers \$66,500 each year in energy costs and avoid significant greenhouse gases, equivalent to planting 120 acres of trees and permanently removing 59 polluting cars from the road.

Recycling

The Agreement seeks to increase the rate of recycling in City operations and in the community.

- The City of San Diego has achieved a 52% diversion rate, but we want to do even more. An automated curbside recycling program is in place that currently serves 276,000 residents with every-other week collection service. This automated collection-recycling program facilitates convenient, safe, and cost-effective recycling and helps to discourage scavenging of valuable recyclables.

HOW DOES THE CITY INTEND TO COMPLY WITH OTHER SECTIONS OF THE AGREEMENT?

The City is viewed as a municipal leader in pursuing the goals of the Climate Projection Agreement. In fact, it was awarded the 2004 Climate Protection Award by the Environmental Protection Agency. However, the 15% reduction target remains a challenge to meet, especially in the transportation sector.

Between 1990 and 2003, the City's programs reduced greenhouse gas by a cumulative total of 3.8 million tons through changes in energy and water conservation, as well as waste disposal. The City needs to increase that reduction to more than 5 million tons in order to meet the goal.

The City is always actively engaged in looking for new and more efficient ways to comply with federal, state and local environmental strategies.

- For example, the City is continuing to study a plan to create a facility to recycle construction and demolition material pursuant to the City Council Policy 900-16.
- Additionally, in order for the State of California to reach its AB 32 target of reducing global warming emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, an enforceable statewide cap on emissions will be phased in starting in 2012. Local government can play a key role in emission reductions. Mayor Sanders will continue to work with all department directors to review the options and set milestones for short-term, mid-range, and long-term reduction of emissions. Included in that plan will be measurable savings in energy efficiency and fuel use, an increase in renewable energy use, and a reduction in what we send to the landfill for disposal.
- The City will continue to support community outreach and partnerships that demonstrate the importance of every business, institution and individual doing their part to reduce the region's global warming emissions. The collective impact of our actions will make a tremendous difference.

WHO ELSE HAS SIGNED ONTO THIS AGREEMENT?

Since this is sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the signatories are mayors of U.S. cities.

- To date, 320 mayors from 46 states have signed onto the agreement.
- They represent a total population of over 51.6 million citizens.
- A few notables include:
 - Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, New York City
 - Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles
 - Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chicago
 - Mayor Gavin Newsome, San Francisco

For a full list, access: <http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/climate/quotes.htm#mayors>.

Additionally, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on June 1, 2005, called for the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to prepare biennial science reports on the potential impact of continued global warming on certain sectors of the California economy. CalEPA entrusted PIER and its California Climate Change Center to lead this effort.